United Nations E/2018/75

Economic and Social Council

Distr.: General
27 June 2018

Original: English

2018 session
Agenda item 12 (d)
Coordination, programme and other questions: long-term programme of support for Haiti

Report of the Ad Hoc Advisory Group on Haiti*

Summary

The present report is submitted pursuant to Economic and Social Council resolution 2017/26 and highlights the main findings of the Ad Hoc Advisory Group on Haiti following its visits to Washington, D.C., in March 2018 and to Haiti in May 2018, during which members interacted with a number of senior government and legislative officials, representatives of civil society and the justice sector.

While the Group recognizes the full responsibility of Haiti for its own development, it acknowledges the difficult and complex context the country faces. It notes that more than a year after the peaceful and democratic transition of 2017, further steps towards political and institutional stability have been taken. The Government, with the support of the international community and the United Nations system, has continued to consolidate the transition by, among other things, reviewing and putting in place new legislation to strengthen the administration of justice and the rule of law and crafting a vision for resilience and sustainable development based on a clear set of priorities in line with the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

The report concludes with recommendations addressed to the Haitian authorities, the international community, the United Nations system and other development partners, aimed at continuing to use the opportunity presented by the progress achieved so far to secure a better future for the country. The Group urges the international community to continue to support Haiti as it pursues a future of sustainable development.

* The present report was submitted late owing to the fact that the Ad Hoc Advisory Group's mission to Haiti was undertaken in mid-May 2018.

18-10594 (E) 100718

Please recycle

I. Introduction

A. Mandate and composition of the Group

1. The present report is the fourteenth submitted to the Economic and Social Council by the Ad Hoc Advisory Group on Haiti since its reactivation in 2004. The Group, which is chaired by Canada, is composed of the Permanent Representatives of Argentina, the Bahamas, Belize, Benin, Brazil, Canada, Chile, Colombia, El Salvador, France, Haiti, Mexico, Peru, Spain, Trinidad and Tobago, the United States of America and Uruguay to the United Nations.

2. In its resolution 2017/26, the Economic and Social Council extended the mandate of the Group for another year so it could continue following closely and providing advice on the long-term development strategy of Haiti to promote socioeconomic recovery, reconstruction and stability, paying particular attention to the need to ensure coherence and sustainability in international support for the country. The Council requested that the Group submit a report on its activities for consideration at its 2018 session.

3. The report highlights the main findings of the Group following its visits to Washington, D.C., and Haiti in March and May 2018, respectively.

B. Activities of the Group for the year

4. During the Group's visit to Washington, D.C., members met with representatives of the International Monetary Fund (IMF), the World Bank, the Inter-American Development Bank (IADB), the Pan American Health Organization (PAHO), the Organization of American States, the United States Department of State and three members of think tanks specializing in the Americas.[1]

5. Prior to the visit to Haiti, the Group met with the United Nations Special Envoy for Haiti for an update on the approach to cholera and with the Deputy Special Representative of the Secretary-General/Humanitarian Coordinator/Resident Coordinator for an update on the situation on the ground.

6. In Haiti, the Group met the President, the Prime Minister and the Cabinet, Senators, members of the Chamber of Deputies, representatives of the private sector, civil society representatives, members of the diplomatic community and representatives of the United Nations. The Group is profoundly grateful for the opportunity and insights they received from these engagements.

7. The Group is grateful to the Department of Economic and Social Affairs of the Secretariat, the Officer-in-Charge of the United Nations Mission for Justice Support in Haiti (MINUJUSTH) and his team, the United Nations country team and representatives of the international financial institutions in Haiti for their support and valuable insights.

II. Political, humanitarian and economic background

A. Political situation

8. More than a year after the peaceful and democratic transition of 2017 in Haiti that brought in President Jovenel Moïse and his Government, further steps towards

[1] The Council of the Americas, Caribbean/Central American Action and the Inter-American Dialogue.

political and institutional stability have been taken. The Government, with the support of the international community and the United Nations system, has continued to consolidate this transition by, among other things, reviewing and putting in place new legislation to strengthen the administration of justice and the rule of law and crafting a vision for resilience and sustainable development. It has also put forward a clear set of priorities in line with the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the Sustainable Development Goals.

9. Renewing the national dialogue between the Government and the people is central to this agenda, and is buttressed by the Government's Caravane du changement initiative, its national development priorities and its efforts to put in place États généraux de la nation.

10. There has been some progress in the Government's legislative agenda as well as in the fight against corruption and impunity, with new legislation passed and some high profile anti-corruption cases already receiving attention. However, it is also clear that much more remains to be done.

11. The Group also heard about the improvements in public security, with new contingents of the Haitian National Police trained and deployed to protect people and their property, and the deepening of the reach of the Administration to the local level and in regions away from the main urban centres. This is particularly important given the withdrawal of the military component of the United Nations Stabilization Mission in Haiti (MINUSTAH). Although the security situation has improved, elevated levels of gang violence continue to cause concern.

12. Overall, the Group acknowledges the considerable progress in peace and political stability in Haiti, although its consolidation and further progress will be determined by the ability of the Administration to stay on course with regard to its political, administrative and judicial reforms and its economic transformation agenda.

B. Social and humanitarian context

13. The Group was informed that Haiti continues to face serious social and economic challenges which hamper the country's ability to ensure its sustainable transition towards development. Income inequalities, high unemployment rates, low labour productivity, the lack of access to cost-effective energy, clean water and quality health and education systems, the low levels of resilience to natural disaster and climate change and the corruption and mismanagement of scarce resources all undercut livelihoods and well-being, especially for the underprivileged.

14. The humanitarian context has not significantly improved since the end of 2017. The estimated number of people experiencing severe food insecurity stands at 1.32 million according to the October 2017 report of the Integrated Food Security Phase Classification. Of the 2.1 million people affected by Hurricane Matthew, 1 million are still in need of some form of humanitarian assistance. In addition, a total of 37,667 displaced persons remain in 26 camps following the 2010 earthquake.

15. On a more positive note, the incidence of suspected cholera cases in Haiti has decreased from 185,000 cases in 2010 to fewer than 14,000 in 2017. This trend continues, and only 432 suspected cholera cases were recorded in January 2018. Although these numbers are encouraging, the Group understands that an increase in the number of cases could quickly occur depending on factors such as weather conditions. This underscores the need to enhance efforts to eliminate cholera completely.

16. The Group heard concerns about the rising number of deportations of Haitians from the Dominican Republic. Figures reported in January 2018 reveal roughly

12,074 deportations, an increase of 245 per cent from the same period in 2017. The Government clearly still needs both staffing and financial support from the international community to respond to this situation, in order to protect deportees, especially unaccompanied minor deportees, particularly girls, from human trafficking networks.

C. Economic and sustainable development prospects

17. According to data provided to the Group, despite losses at the beginning of 2017, resulting from the impact of Hurricane Matthew in October 2016, the agricultural sector showed some resilience, growing by 0.8 per cent. The industrial and service sectors grew by 0.9 and 1.2 per cent, respectively, during the fiscal year. On the demand side, private consumption and exports dampened growth in gross domestic product (GDP), which slowed to 1.2 per cent, from 1.5 per cent in 2016.

18. GDP growth is expected to rise to 1.8 per cent in 2018 and is projected to increase to 2.4 per cent during the period 2019–2020, supported by Government consumption and investment. However, this rate remains too low to significantly reduce poverty levels.

19. Higher imports to support reconstruction efforts and an increase in the value of petroleum imports in the absence of Petrocaribe arrangements is expected to result in a widening of the current account deficit to 4.2 per cent of GDP, to be financed by a continued erosion of international reserves. In addition, despite larger remittances inflows and stable official aid, the external position deteriorated owing to higher food and fuel product imports. The fiscal deficit and debt is expected to widen to 3.1 per cent of GDP in the financial year 2018, and the threat of inflation remains, while the amount spent on energy subsidies (approximately 3.5 per cent of GDP) is larger than total social sector spending combined, including education, health and social affairs.

20. The Group believes that further progress in these areas will depend on the extent to which the Government's vision and strategy for recovery, building resilience and integrating the three dimensions of sustainable development into its national development priorities are implemented. It will also be necessary for the Government to raise more revenue to close the fiscal deficit and become better able to finance its programmes. To support this effort, the international community could provide more coherent and coordinated support that aligns with the national development priorities and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and targets all relevant development partners.

III. Exchanges on national strategic development priorities and support measures towards a more resilient and sustainable future

21. In meetings with the President of Haiti and his Cabinet, the President outlined the national development priorities for his Government, which are to:

(a) Reform the State and maintain political and social stability;

(b) Transform Haiti into an investment destination;

(c) Increase agricultural production and improve the environment;

(d) Build energy, road and port infrastructure;

(e) Strengthen water and sanitation infrastructure;

(f) Improve infrastructure and the quality of education;

(g) Promote stability through social projects.

22. These priorities (see annex for details) became central to the subsequent discussions, and some critical aspects of the exchanges are detailed below.

A. Improving the domestic environment, including by improving administrative capacity, the rule of law and the administration of justice and instituting legal and institutional reforms, as the foundation for transformation

23. In this broad area, the Government's main priority involves reforming the State and maintaining political and social stability. The stated focus is to revitalize and modernize public administration; strengthen the justice system in order to ensure fairness and transparency and to combat impunity, among other policies. The establishment of a Permanent Electoral Council and the maintenance of political stability through the ongoing political and social dialogue is also envisaged. Support for the strengthening of the Haitian National Police is also seen as an important aspect of this agenda, building on the discernible progress that has already been made in this regard with the support of the international community.

24. The Group attaches great importance to the reform of the rule of law sector to ensure the success and sustainability of the country's future development efforts. For the first time, the Group was able to engage with representatives of the Haitian justice sector to better understand their concerns and objectives. In particular, the representatives stressed that Haiti already had many adequate laws and that the main issue was to ensure their effective and even-handed implementation. Interlocutors also stressed the need to improve ethical conduct in public life to ensure a stronger justice system.

25. Representatives from the Haitian justice sector also expressed the view that the international community was too focused on ensuring that Haiti passed a certain number of laws rather than focusing on the laws' quality, national acceptability and implementation. In this regard, they stressed the need to review the support from the international community and the United Nations system to the Government of Haiti to ensure that it was better targeted to the needs of the key actors in the justice sector.

26. The Group welcomes these views, and emphasizes that the rule of law and the administration of justice, the independence of the judiciary, legal and institutional reforms and efforts to combat corruption and ensure human rights are critical enablers of recovery, private investment, resilience and sustainable development. These must become priority areas for future cooperation. In this regard, the Group has undertaken to consult the representatives from the Haitian justice and rule of law sector on a more regular basis in the pursuit of its mandate. The Group also encourages the United Nations country team and MINUJUSTH to continue their dialogue with these critical actors as they implement rule of law programming in the country.

27. In a related development, the Group notes the information provided regarding the re-establishment of the Haitian Army (and the Government's intention to ensure its neutrality and professionalism) to assist in emergencies and to protect the country's porous borders and to help in combating smuggling and drug trafficking.

B. Strengthening social indicators, including human settlements, health and water and sanitation infrastructure

28. In this area, the Government emphasizes promoting stability through social projects and strengthening communities as well as water and sanitation infrastructure.

29. The Government intends to launch a broad programme of health system reforms and hospital services and plans to establish a universal medical insurance system, in addition to building 122 community health centres and hospitals.

30. Another important priority is improving infrastructure and the quality of education. This is deemed to be fundamental, and will be implemented through a number of measures including new enabling legislation regarding higher education and scientific research as well as large school personnel and infrastructure programmes.

31. The Group appreciates the detailed set of activities that the Government intends to undertake and stresses the need for urgent and critical action to improve all social indicators, including in the areas of health and education. The Group was also informed of the useful role that can be played by non-governmental/civil society organizations in these areas, but stresses that these actors need to work in a coordinated and coherent manner, under Haitian leadership. Recognizing that all of these social issues are intertwined, the Group also concurs with the assessment by PAHO and the World Health Organization that the success in the implementation of public health policy and strategies in Haiti was still slow because the social and economic environment remained weak.

32. In addition, the Group was informed that Haiti still needed a comprehensive response plan for emergencies and disasters, as relying on ad hoc response measures would not result in an effective or coherent response. This is an area that should continue to benefit from the support of all development partners, so that the Government can integrate preparedness, resilience and sustainable development in its national development framework and activities.

33. The Group notes from the field visit it undertook to Mirebalais that the narrative on cholera is beginning to change for the better. Through a tour of various latrine installations and meetings with local community groups and associations, the Group witnessed first-hand the importance of international support for efforts to control cholera and especially of local buy-in to ensure that the measures proposed are successfully adopted by the vulnerable populations concerned. The local water and sanitation projects, coordinated by the United Nations Children's Fund and the United Nations Development Programme and supported by the Office of the United Nations Special Envoy for Haiti, is beginning to create a positive momentum in public health awareness and local action which, if replicated throughout the country, could bring lasting change to the trajectory of the epidemic and other waterborne diseases. The Group encourages the Special Envoy and the United Nations country team to continue their work with the local communities and to work actively to ensure that the chapter of cholera in Haiti ends with dignity for all those involved.

C. Enhancing productive capacity and improving the supportive environment, including related infrastructure development, for resilience and sustainable development

34. In order to relaunch economic recovery and growth, the Government will seek to increase agricultural production and improve the environment. The maintenance of

the health of the related watershed areas against encroachment and pollution is part of this undertaking.

35. The Government will also seek to build energy, road and port infrastructure, as the lack of infrastructure is recognized as the biggest drag on Haitian productivity and economic growth. The core activities envisaged include building the national electricity grid and providing reliable electricity through the development of clean energy sources, including biomass, wind power, hydropower and solar energy, with the participation of the private sector. The Group heard from many interlocutors who underlined the need for the reform of the Haitian energy sector to ensure greater quality, reliability and cost-effectiveness.

36. In the communication sector, the intention is to build a national fibre optic network in the course of the next four years that covers all regions. The Government also sees the revitalization of administrative districts, key cities, ports, airports and other transit centres across the country as part of this effort.

37. All these efforts must be seen in the context of the Government's priority to transform Haiti into an investment destination. In this regard, these efforts will be complemented by improvements to the business environment through appropriate legislation and simplified procedures conducive to domestic and foreign direct investment.

38. The Group recognizes the importance of improving the productive capacity of all sectors in the Haitian economy, and in this regard notes with appreciation the detailed measures that the Government intends to undertake in line with the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. The Group also underscores the importance of improved infrastructure, improved laws and regulations and a sustained fight against corruption to improve the business climate in the country and to eventually attract more foreign investors. The Group is of the view that it is important for the Government to put in place implementation mechanisms in the related sectors to ensure that the plans are implemented and rolled out throughout the country. The Group emphasizes the need to build resilience and the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals as an integral part of the strategic development approach.

39. The Group underscores that these efforts to improve the economic productivity of the country should be buttressed by commensurate measures regarding the rule of law and appropriate legislation to support private sector initiatives, as well as by the provision of crucial inputs such as water, electricity and road and port infrastructure, as these will ultimately determine success.

IV. Coherent and coordinated support by the international community, and the role of the United Nations system[2]

40. The consolidation of the peaceful democratic transition in Haiti is a positive and necessary step to ensure the country's successful transition from humanitarian assistance to a situation of nationally owned development and an era of peace and stability. The country will also need to continue to adapt and prepare to be even more climate resilient and to be able to respond effectively to emergencies and natural disasters. At this challenging juncture, Haiti will continue to need effective and coordinated support from all its development partners.

41. In many of the exchanges with Haitian officials, it was brought to the attention of the Group that, in their view, the support of the development partners needed to be

[2] The following section draws largely from information provided to the Group by international organizations based in Washington, D.C., and in Haiti.

more coherent and better coordinated, targeting priorities that were defined, owned and led by the Government. While the Group acknowledged the efforts that all development partners have been making to review their approaches in consultation with the Haitian Government and other stakeholders and to ensure coherence, the issue of improving the coordination and coherence of aid with the Government's efforts, in line with the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, was discussed on several occasions, underscoring the need for possible improvements and more communication between the country's development partners and the Government in this regard.

42. The Group notes with appreciation that, on 16 June 2017, the Comité d'efficacité de l'aide, presided over by the Prime Minister, agreed on measures for revitalizing the External Aid Coordination Framework for the Development of Haiti. The need to use the Module de gestion de l'aide externe on a regular basis, as a statistical platform containing information on donors' projects, was also agreed. These are very important steps in ensuring effective coherence and coordination in efforts to support the Government that need to be implemented fully. The Group was encouraged to learn that another meeting of the Comité d'efficacité de l'aide was being planned and underscores the importance of these mechanisms in order to ensure proper coordination of aid.

A. Support provided by the international community

43. The Group agrees with the views expressed by many development partners, including international financial institutions, that support to Haiti needs to be better coordinated at a time when the number of donors is declining. International development assistance should be premised on the goal of strengthening Government ownership and capacity with regard to its national development. The Group also heard from Haitian officials that this support should be channelled directly through the Government. Non-governmental actors also continue to have an important role in the country's development but many also called for better alignment of support from the international community with the Government's priorities and under the authority of national leadership.

44. In terms of broader development efforts, the Group took note of many important initiatives that are under way or planned. For example, IADB has concluded a five-year cooperation strategy (2017–2022) with the Government based on national priorities and the conditional pledge of $1 million per month to support the Caravane du changement. The Bank's new country strategy for the period 2017–2021 allocates almost $1 billion to fund higher and more inclusive and sustainable growth that supports reductions in poverty and inequality. The Bank also has a $415 million programme for 2018, which has been discussed with the Government.

45. Similar funding commitments by the World Bank continue to support the new Administration. These commitments, based on national priorities in health ($110 million under implementation and $40 million under preparation), education ($130 million under implementation and $30 million under preparation), water ($70 million under implementation), agriculture ($65 million under implementation) and infrastructure ($207 million under implementation and $75 million under preparation), are equally commendable.

46. The Group agrees that the IMF Staff-Monitored Programme signed with the Government early this year to support policy credibility and build capacity, so that Haiti can transition to direct budget support and national execution, is a move in the right direction.

47. In meeting with the diplomatic community based in Port-au-Prince, the Group also heard from various bilateral funding partners who are also undertaking critical work in support of the Haitian people and for the country's development.

B. Role of the United Nations system, including the transition to a more development-oriented configuration

48. The Group was informed that, in 2017, the United Nations Development Assistance Framework 2017–2021 and its joint workplans were developed, agreed and signed by the United Nations country team and the Government.

49. The Framework is an inclusive document that involves all resident and non-resident agencies of the United Nations and sections of MINUSTAH. Representatives of the Government and civil society, as well as other development partners, were consulted on the Framework. MINUJUSTH, within its mandate, will build on the achievements of MINUSTAH.

50. The Framework is a conscious effort to build into United Nations programming the need to reinforce the resilience of populations and territories and align with national priorities, as well as to break the vicious cycle of political and institutional instability, including multidimensional poverty, which has jeopardized the promotion of sustainable human development in the country for three decades.

51. It includes five outcome areas: (1) poverty reduction and employment; (2) social services; (3) gender and protection; (4) resilience; and (5) governance. For each outcome area, a joint workplan is already operational and is the basis for resource mobilization. The current joint workplans, covering the period from October 2017 to December 2018, have a total budget of $218,789,011 and contain 31 outputs.

52. In addition, the Resident Coordinator will be considering innovative ways of mobilizing resources for the United Nations Resident Coordinator Office to ensure more substantive support to the United Nations country team.

53. The Group concludes from the discussion with Government and the United Nations representatives in Haiti that there is continuing need for support from the United Nations system. It also takes note of the concern of the Government that, since the security situation in the country has improved, the United Nations missions to the country should be mandated outside the terms Chapter VII of the Charter of the United Nations, as continuing the mission under this Chapter sends, in the view of the Haitian authorities, an erroneous signal to potential tourists and investors that the security and political situations are still volatile and not ripe for economic development. This message was stressed by most elected Haitian officials met.

54. Regarding MINUJUSTH, the Group believes that it has an important role to play in supporting the Government with regard to continuing to consolidate peace and political stability and strengthening the justice and rule of law sectors, which are still weak.

55. The Group heard from the Deputy Special Representative of the Secretary-General/Humanitarian Coordinator/Resident Coordinator and representatives of the United Nations country team on their continuing efforts to effectively coordinate their actions on the ground and to act as one. The country team's efforts are undertaken under the broad scope of the United Nations Development Assistance Framework. The Group is encouraged by the progressive transition of the United Nations configuration in Haiti into one focused on providing support aimed at building resilience and achieving the Sustainable Development Goals. The Group was also informed of the country team's efforts, in conjunction with MINUJUSTH, to ensure

a smooth and successful exit strategy as mandated, while leveraging the capacities of both the Mission and the country team, especially in the rule of law sector. The Group will continue to look with great interest at the planned MINUJUSTH exit strategy towards a single United Nations country team that delivers as one, and encourages this transition strategy to be undertaken in a responsible manner, consistent with conditions on the ground and in close coordination with the country team and the Government. In this regard, the Deputy Special Representative reminded the Group that the United Nations presence in Haiti aims to work collaboratively with the Haitian Government to build mutual respect and to fully support Haitian national priorities. The Group also emphasizes the unique nature of the transition of the United Nations presence currently under way in Haiti, and that it will serve as a model for others. As such, much attention will be paid by the Group and other Member States to the success of these efforts, which will mark the country's transition from a peacekeeping and humanitarian mission to one focused on sustainable development. To this end, the Group emphasizes the need for United Nations activities to be aligned to the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the Sustainable Development Goals with a view to boosting Haiti to reach its 169 targets.

C. Role of other development actors

56. It was pointed out to the Group that the Government is prepared to engage civil society in all dialogues it undertakes on development, renewing its social contract with the population and defining how it should operate. The critical development role played by civil society actors was also repeatedly underlined. Some members of the Government remain concerned, however, that much of the international development funding is directed through non-governmental organizations rather than through national budgetary support, and that oversight and coordination of civil society activities in areas of national jurisdiction remain complex.

57. In the discussions with representatives of the private sector, there was mutual recognition that the private sector has a critical role in the recovery and sustainable development of Haiti. They underlined their desire to do their part for the country's development and stressed the need for the Government to consult them even more on a formal and regular basis on matters that would affect them. The sector players, while very clear about their role, have concerns that the types of issues that would support their effective participation, including infrastructure, laws, rules and procedures for facilitating business, including transit and customs clearance, do not get the attention they deserve domestically and from external partners.

58. The Group believes that there is scope for better cooperation between the Government, the private sector and civil society, so that their combined efforts can more effectively help them improve their operations and performance for the benefit of the Haitian people.

V. Conclusions and recommendations

59. The Group welcomes the Government's clear commitment to making tangible progress on the social, political, economic and environmental fronts. This should be based on a long-term strategic vision and framework rather than on short-term considerations. In this regard, ensuring the alignment of Government efforts with the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the 17 Sustainable Development Goals will be key. A review of the 169 targets of the 2030 Agenda and the definition of a national road map towards reaching them is important.

60. The Group would also welcome further details on the development plans, priorities and strategies of the Government of Haiti, with clear means for their implementation, so that it is easier for development partners to target their support. The alignment of the country's national development plan to the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development will facilitate and harmonize international cooperation.

61. It is important to improve domestic resource mobilization to enable the delivery of social services in order to continue to strengthen the social contract between the Government and the citizens. This may require bold actions that recognize that some fiscal measures could be unpopular in the short term.

62. Justice sector reform, the rule of law, the fight against corruption and impunity and the promotion and protection of human rights, as well as the building of strong institutional capacities, are all necessary conditions for building resilience and sustaining development support and progress, and for attracting both domestic and foreign investment.

63. Haiti will continue to need the support of the international community to consolidate the progress it has achieved since the democratic transition in 2017. This support should be well coordinated and coherent, and should target national development priorities in the light of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

64. The United Nations system has an important role in supporting the transition in Haiti. MINUJUSTH and the United Nations country team should also align their support following national development priorities defined by Haiti, taking into account the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the Sustainable Development Goals.

65. The Group would like to draw the attention of the Economic and Social Council to the recommendations below.

66. The Group encourages the Government of Haiti to continue to assume full leadership in and ownership of its national development, taking into account the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, and in doing so to:

(a) Make more efforts to put in place clear plans and strong institutional mechanisms for the implementation of the priorities it has identified for the long-term sustainable development of Haiti;

(b) More proactively engage all development actors, especially the private sector and civil society, on the formulation and implementation of laws and regulations and other targeted support measures that address the challenges of recovery, building resilience and sustainable development;

(c) Better coordinate and commit to actions to reform the justice sector, focusing on implementing existing laws, guaranteeing the rule of law and undertaking anti-corruption and anti-impunity measures as well as continuing to promote full respect for human rights;

(d) Continue to build a conducive environment for both domestic and external private sector investment in order to increase productivity, create employment and generate the revenue needed for self-sustaining development;

(e) Consider continuing to request support from the Peacebuilding Commission, including its Peacebuilding Fund.

67. With regard to the international community and other development actors, the Group recommends that they should:

(a) Continue to support the sustainable development of Haiti on the basis of its national development priorities and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable

Development, and in this regard ensure that their actions are coordinated and coherent and are in close coordination and cooperation with the Government;

(b) Better target their support and improve their coordination to areas that are likely to make the most contribution to building resilience and achieving the sustainable development of Haiti, such as the justice and rule of law sectors and infrastructure, working with all partners, especially civil society and the private sector;

(c) Progressively support the efforts of the Government of Haiti to build its human and institutional capacities so that it can better execute its own development programmes and, in this regard, consider channelling more resources through direct budget support;

(d) Following on the adoption of General Assembly resolution 72/279 on the repositioning of the United Nations development system, support the strengthening of the resident coordinator system in Haiti in order to ensure a smooth transition and effective assistance to the country by the United Nations system in a post-MINUJUSTH configuration.

68. In the view of the Group, the United Nations system should:

(a) Improve its consultation efforts with the Government of Haiti on all matters of programming and the composition and focus of United Nations operations, so that United Nations activities are better understood and are able to better respond to national development priorities and the accomplishment of the Sustainable Development Goals and its targets while strengthening national ownership and capacity;

(b) Continue to improve on its planning and programming frameworks, including the United Nations Development Assistance Framework, to ensure better alignment with national development priorities, ensure that its programming in Haiti is inclusive and also take into consideration the needs of the private sector and civil society;

(c) With the MINUJUSTH exit strategy under way, ensure that the United Nations country team improves its international coordination mechanisms to act as one;

(d) With the evolving needs of the country and given the MINUJUSTH exit strategy, ensure that the United Nations country team has the necessary capacities and resources, including human resources, to progressively take over the identified tasks that the Mission will no longer carry out once it has left, including in areas such as the strengthening of support for the justice and rule of law sectors, and related institutions, as well as programmes to build resilience and achieve the Sustainable Development Goals;

(e) Under the leadership of the United Nations Special Envoy for Haiti, continue its efforts to respond to the cholera outbreak, including by seeking innovative ways of funding and new mechanisms of international cooperation.

Annex

[Original: French]

National development priorities of Haiti

Priorities of the Moïse administration

1. Reform the State and maintain political and social stability

   - Recruit competent youth through competitive examinations in order to reinvigorate and modernize the civil service.
   - Give priority to results-based management methods and institute a system of performance-based incentives for the civil service.
   - Strengthen the judicial system to ensure equal, fair and transparent justice, combat impunity, prolonged preventive detention and prison over-population.
   - Make the national identification system accessible to all citizens.
   - Prevent and combat corruption, especially smuggling, over-billing, waste, theft of State property, fraud and tax evasion.
   - Establish the Permanent Electoral Council.
   - Maintain political stability through continuous political and social dialogue and the holding of national "etats-generaux sectoriels".
   - Strengthen the national police.

2. Transform Haiti into an investment destination

   - Improve the business environment through appropriate laws and simplified procedures in order to attract more investment and create jobs.
   - Create a framework conducive to both national and foreign direct investment.
   - Support businesses that would like to move to Haiti in order to benefit from the American market duty-free through the HOPE Act and the HELP Act.
   - Support the establishment of a network of micro-industrial parks throughout all the districts in the Republic.
   - Create an incubator for technology companies.

3. Increase agricultural production and improve the environment

   - Develop an appropriate system for surface water management and construct 12 irrigation dams and water storage reservoirs to improve 120,000 ha of land.
   - Establish zones for organic agricultural production.
   - Promote the establishment of small and medium agro-industries through production blocs, especially for growing rice in the Artibonite Valley, the Maribaroux, Torbeck, South St. Louis and Abraham plains.
   - Build 14 centres for germ plasm and plant propagation capable of producing 63 million seedlings per year.
   - Clear 300 kms of streams and correct the ravines.
   - Maintain watersheds.
   - Support mayors' offices in establishing a new policy for handling garbage and solid waste.

4. Build energy, road and port infrastructure

- Build the national electric grid and provide electricity 24 hours a day, mainly by using clean energy, including biomass, wind, hydro-energy and solar power.
- Establish the appropriate conditions to encourage the private sector to invest in the production of renewable energy throughout the country (goal: 1000 mgw).
- Build the national fibre optic network.
- Build 4000 km of roads, at a rate of 100 km per Department per year over 4 years, especially departmental, inter-commune and local roads.
- Build a cable car for access to the Citadelle.
- Rebuild the coastal highway and restore the town of Cap-Haitien.
- Resume construction of the administration buildings and establish an appropriate system of incentives for the reconstruction of the city of Port-au-Prince.
- Rebuild the Port-au-Prince international airport, rebuild the terminal of the Cap-Haitien international airport, build an international airport at Cayes, as well as regional airports at Gonaives, Belladere, Ouanaminthe, Anse-a-Pitre, le Mole St. Nicolas, Petit-Trou de Nippes, Hinche, Jeremie and Port-de-Paix.
- Build port infrastructure (docking facilities and ports) throughout the country to facilitate better movement of persons, goods and merchandise.
- Restore the coastal areas of vulnerable and exposed towns.
- Rebuild three border towns: Ouanaminthe, Belladere, Anse-a-Pitres.

5. Strengthen water and sanitation infrastructure

- Strengthen the capacity of the National Directorate for Drinking Water and Sanitation to improve the distribution of drinking water throughout the country; build sewage treatment and sanitation facilities.
- Create a national water resources institute.
- Launch a vast reform programme of the health and hospital system and establish a universal health insurance system.
- Build 122 community health centres and hospitals offering the four basic services in certain communes; one ambulance service per commune, and a fire fighting service in the metropolitan zone and the major towns.

6. Improve infrastructure and the quality of education

- Negotiate with Parliament for a swift vote on the Higher Education and Scientific Research Act and related laws.
- Launch a vast school infrastructure programme with the aim of making up the deficit of 15,000 classrooms.
- Launch a vast national programme for basic and continuing education for teachers using new information and communications technologies.
- Strengthen the vocational training system.
- To provide access to higher education, launch a vast programme of general preparatory courses throughout the Departments to prepare for entry into universities and professional schools.

7. Promote stability through social projects

- Facilitate the construction of social housing for teachers and police officers, as well as 2000 homes for victims of Hurricane Matthew.
- Implement social programmes, in particular, by setting up community restaurants throughout the country, distribution of food packages and providing allowances to the neediest families, as well as students.
- Reform the social security system so that it serves national development.